

MINUTES

—OF THE—

•Fifth Annual Session•

—OF THE—

NEW PROVIDENCE ASSOCIATION

—HELD WITH—

MT. ZION CHURCH, CRENSHAW COUNTY, ALA.,

OCTOBER 21, 22 AND 23, 1893.

C. L. EILAND,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Moderator.
W. L. DAVIS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Clerk.
J. C. DAVIS,	-	-	-	-	-	-	Treasurer.

1893.

MINUTES.

The Fifth Annual Session of the New Providence Association met with the Baptist Church of Christ at Mt. Zion, October 21, 1893. Introductory Sermon by Elder W. C. Avant; text from John, 9th chapter and 17th verse. Adjourned for dinner until 2 P. M.

Association met for business. Prayer by Elder J. S. Yarborough. Elder C. L. Eiland, Moderator. Letters from the different churches were read by Elders Avant and Yarborough. Messengers from the churches were enrolled as follows:

Bethel Church—Jos. M. Hancock, John Manning McDougald, Benjamin F. Everage, Jos. T. Howe and Wright L. Davis.

Friendship Church—Elder Chas. L. Eiland, Wm. G. Gilchrist, Howell L. Short, Wm. Stewart, Columbus C. Eiland and David M. Lawson.

Luverne Church—Elder Jos. S. Yarborough, Peter J. Thrower, John C. Davis, William B. Howard, Dudley D. Finley, Elders Robert F. Hawkins and Julius F. Simms.

New Harmony Church—Miles P. Williams, Wm. H. Nix and J. H. Nixon.

Mt. Gilead Church—Thos. R. Meadows, Wm. L. Stinson and John R. Jordan.

Mt. Zion Church—Alexander Williamson, John R. Brunson, Abraham H. Rodgers and A. Thomas Layton.

Pleasant Home Church—Elder Benj. Cooper and Thos. Cook.

Spring Hill Church—Elder Joseph H. Stephens, L. Franklin Mount, Thomas J. Logan, L. Redding Rouse, Isaac L. Mills, Sr., D. Ross Witherington, Hinton C. Loard and Wm. J. Norman.

All the messengers who were present being enrolled, proceeded to vote for Moderator, Clerk and Treasurer for permanent organization. The following was the result of the election, which was done by teller: Moderator, Elder C. L. Eiland, re-elected; Clerk, W. L. Davis, and Treasurer, J. C. Davis.

Different committees were then appointed:

On Devotional Services—Pastor and messengers of Mt. Zion Church.

On Sabbath Schools—J. S. Yarborough, J. H. Nixon and H. L. Short.

Moderator called for petitionary letters; none.

Called for correspondence from sister associations. Bro. J. P. Graham reported from the Pea River; Elder W. C. Avant, T. J. Dobbs and J. M. Whatley reported from the Alabama. From the Zion, Bro. Willis Moore reported. All these brethren were invited to take seats with us and make themselves at home.

Committee on Missions—Elder J. H. Stephens, L. F. Mount and P. J. Thrower.

On Nominations—A. H. Rodgers, H. C. Loard and J. M. Hancock.

On Finance—Wm. G. Gilchrist, W. B. Howard and C. C. Eiland.

Constitutional Committee—Elder J. S. Yarborough, R. F. Hawkins and J. H. Stephens.

Committee on Missions—R. F. Hawkins, B. F. Everage and Benjamin Cooper.

On Temperance—J. F. Simms, W. H. Nix and J. H. Nixon.

On Books and Periodicals—Isaac L. Mills, Sr., M. P. Williams, J. R. Jordan and W. J. Norman.

SABBATH MORNING—OCTOBER 22, 1893.

The Body assembled at 9:30 o'clock. Prayer by Elder Avant; speeches were made on the Sabbath School question by Elders Avant and Stephens.

Eleven o'clock—Opening prayer by Elder Avant; sermon by Elder Yarborough, text, Exodus, 14th chapter, 15th verse. The amount of money contributed after the sermon was \$10.72. Body adjourned for refreshments until 2 o'clock.

Three o'clock—Sermon was preached by Elder J. H. Stephens, text from the 9th chapter of John.

MONDAY MORNING—OCTOBER 23, 1893.

Prayer by J. M. Whatley. Minutes of the two previous days read and adopted. Correspondents were not returned from the fact that this Body passed a resolution, one year ago, that any

member of this Body carrying one of our minutes to another association was sufficient passport.

The report on finance was read and adopted, as follows :

Your Committee on Finance submit the following report :

Received for Minutes.....	\$15 15
Missions	12 60
Pledges from the churches made last session.....	31 00
Sabbath collections (yesterday).....	10 72

Total from all sources.....	\$69 47
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Respectfully submitted, W. G. GILCHRIST, Chairman.

The report on Missions was read and adopted :

We, your committee, ask leave to make the following report :
 The cause of Missions is the cause of Christ. The desire for the salvation of souls is planted in the Christian's heart in the day of regeneration. The duty of sending the Gospel where it is not, is plainly taught in the Bible. The obligation resting upon Christians to give of their means for this purpose is as clearly taught as the duty of baptism. Give and it shall be given unto you. Freely ye have received, freely give. We are proud of our record as Missionary Baptists. It is further recommended that on the occasions of our fifth Sabbath meetings for the next associational year to be devoted to the discussion of the great question of missions, and that each pastor of their respective churches preach one or more sermons on this subject, in order that the people may be better instructed as to their duty in the cause.

R. F. HAWKINS, Chairman.

Report on Temperance :

We, your committee, ask leave to report as follows : The Scripture teaches that we should be temperate in all things. We may be intemperate in eating, drinking or in talking ; but one of the great evils of the day in the line of intemperance, is the habit of drinking intoxicants. In the days of the Apostle Paul, a little wine for the stomach's sake was used, but now men drink to the dethronement of reason and the destruction of the flesh. The habit of drunkenness has grown to be such a monster that it destroys manhood, robs home of comfort, laughs at the sighs and griefs of the mother, wife and sister, and regards not the cries and necessities of the orphan. Therefore, we suggest

that every member of the churches of this Association use all their influence against the use of intoxicating liquors as beverages, and that the churches exercise discipline with that part of their membership who use intoxicants as beverages.

Respectfully submitted, J. F. SIMMS.

A strong speech was made by Elder Stephens, when on motion, the report was adopted.

Executive Committee's report :

We, your Executive Committee, ask leave to make the following report: Last Spring we employed Elder Yarborough to take the mission work at Brantley, which he has done with success. He has preached there statedly one Sabbath in each month, in the school building, and has constituted a church there of eleven members, and the church has called Elder Yarborough. We have held two fifth Sabbath meetings in our Association during the past year, and we recommend that these meetings be continued.

Respectfully submitted, C. C. EILAND.

Report on Books and Periodicals :

Your Committee ask leave to submit the following report: We recommend the Bible as the man of our counsel, and of all the books it should be read first, last and all the time; and as to periodicals, we recommend the reading of the Alabama Baptist, Ford's Christian Repository and the State Mission Quarterly, as being good literature for Baptists to read.

I. L. MILLS, SR., Chairman.

Executive Committee for 1894—J. H. Nixon, W. G. Gilchrist, W. B. Howard, J. T. Howe, J. R. Jordan, P. J. Thrower and A. T. Layton.

Report of the Treasurer :

Total amount of money received.....	\$72 12
Paid to Elder Yarborough.....	33 35
Balance on hand.....	38 77

Respectfully submitted, J. C. DAVIS, Treasurer.

Report on Nominations :

We, your Committee on Nominations ask leave to submit the following: We, your Committee, recommend that our Body

meet next year, with the church at Spring Hill, on Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1894, and we further recommend that Elder C. L. Eiland preach the Introductory Sermon, with Elder Benjamin Cooper as alternate.

Respectfully submitted, A. H. RODGERS, Chairman.

Resolution by C. C. Eiland :

Resolved, That the Treasurer pay to Elder Yarborough fifty dollars for his services at Brantley. \$16.65 was paid to him Saturday, by the Executive Committee, and \$33.35, by the Treasurer on Monday, making the fifty dollars.

Resolution by Elder Yarborough :

Resolved, That this Association co-operate with the State Board in carrying on the Missionary work in our State and in foreign fields.

Resolution by Elder Simms :

Resolved, That we co-operate with our State Board in doing mission work in our bounds.

Resolution by Elder Yarborough :

Resolved, That we pay our Clerk five dollars for his services, out of the Minute funds, and with the balance (\$10.15) he is to have as many Minutes printed as he possibly can.

Resolution by Elder Stephens :

Resolved, That we tender our thanks to the brethren, sisters and friends around about Mt. Zion, for their kindness and hospitality shown us while in their midst.

After taking the parting hand, the Body adjourned to meet at Spring Hill, Saturday before the 4th Sunday in October, 1894.

C. L. EILAND, *Moderator*.

W. L. DAVIS, *Clerk*.

The following individual members made pledges to be paid for Missions at the next session of this Body, for missionary purposes : One dollar each for the following : I. L. Mills, Sr., C. S. Johnson, T. J. Logan, D. R. Witherington, J. C. Davis, D. B. M. Lawson, B. F. Everage, J. M. Hancock, H. C. Loard, J. H. Stephens, C. L. Eiland, W. G. Gilchrist, C. C. Eiland, J. R. Jordan, W. L. Davis, J. T. Hough and J. S. Yarborough. J. F. Simms, R. F. Hawkins, W. B. Howard and J. C. Davis agree to pay two dollars. A. H. Rodgers agrees to pay one dollar and a half. Alex. W. Williamson, A. T. Layton and J. R. Brunson agreed to pay fifty cents each; making in all twenty-eight dollars.

ARTICLES OF FAITH.

I. *Of the Scriptures.*—We believe that the Holy Bible was written by men divinely inspired, and is a perfect treasure of heavenly instruction; that it has God for its author, salvation for its end and truth without any mixture of error for its matter; that it reveals the principles by which God will judge us; and therefore is, and shall remain unto the end of the world, the true centre of Christian union and the supreme standard by which all human conduct, creeds and opinions should be tried.

II. *Of the True God.*—That there is one, and only one, true and living God, whose name is Jehovah, the Maker and Supreme Ruler of Heaven and Earth; inexpressibly glorious in holiness; worthy of all confidence and love; revealed under the personal and relative distinctions of the Father, the Son and the Holy Ghost, equal in every divine perfection, and executing distinct but harmonious offices in the great work of redemption.

III. *Of the Fall of Man.*—That man was created in a state of holiness, under the law of his Maker, but by voluntary transgressions fell from that happy and holy state; in consequence of which all mankind are sinners, not by constraint, but by choice, being by nature utterly void of that holiness required by the law of God, wholly given to the gratification of the world, of Satan and of their own sinful passions; and therefore under just condemnation to eternal ruin, without defense or excuse.

IV. *Of the Way of Salvation.*—That the salvation of sinners is wholly of grace, through the mediatorial office of the Son of God, who took on him our nature, yet without sin, honored the law by His personal obedience, and made atonement for our sins by His death; being risen from the dead He is now enthroned in Heaven and uniting in His wonderful person the tenderest sympathies with divine perfections, He is in every way qualified to be a suitable, a compassionate and an all-sufficient Savior.

V. *Of Justification.*—That the great Gospel blessing, which Christ of His fullness bestows on such as believe in Him, is justification; and that justification consists in the pardon of sin and the promise of eternal life on principles of righteousness; that it is bestowed, not in consideration of any work of righteousness which we have done, but solely through His own redemption and righteousness; that it brings us into a state of most blessed peace and favor with God, and secures every other blessing needful for time and eternity.

VI. *Of the Freeness of Salvation.*—That the blessings of salvation are made free to all by the Gospel; that it is the immediate duty of all to accept them by cordial and obedient faith; and that nothing prevents the salvation of the greatest sinner on earth, except his own voluntary refusal to submit to the Lord Jesus Christ, which refusal will subject him to an aggravated condemnation.

VII. *Of Grace in Regeneration.*—That in order to be saved, we must be regenerated, or born again; that regeneration consists in giving a holy disposition to the mind; and is effected in a manner above our comprehension or calculation by the power of the Holy Spirit, so as to secure our voluntary obedience to the Gospel; and that its proper evidence is found in the holy fruit we bring forth to the glory of God.

VIII. *Of God's Purpose of Grace.*—That election is the gracious purpose of God, according to which He regenerates, sacrifices and saves sinners; that, being perfectly consistent with the free agency of man, it comprehends all the means in connection with the end; that it is a most glorious display of God's sovereign goodness, being infinitely wise, holy and unchangeable; that it utterly excludes boasting and promotes humility, prayer, praise, trust in God and active imitation of His free mercy; that it encourages the use of means in the highest degree; that it is ascertained by its effects in all who believe the Gospel: is the foundation of Christian assurance, and that to ascertain it with regard to ourselves demands and deserves our utmost diligence.

IX. *Of the Perseverance of Saints.*—That such are only real believers as endure to the end; that their persevering attachment to Christ is the grand mark which distinguishes them from superficial profession; that a special

Providence watches over their welfare, and that they are kept by the power of God through faith unto salvation.

X. *Harmony of the Law and Gospel*—That the law of God is the eternal and unchangeable rule of His moral government; that it is holy, just and good; that the inability which the Scripture ascribes to fallen men to fulfill its precepts arises entirely from their love of sin; to deliver them from which, and to restore them, through a Mediator, to unfeigned obedience to the holy law, is one great end of the Gospel, and of the means of grace connected with the establishment of the visible church.

XI. *Of a Gospel Church*—That a visible Church of Christ is a congregation of baptized believers, associated by covenant in the faith and fellowship of the Gospel, observing the ordinances of Christ, governed by His laws and exercising the gifts, rights and privileges invested in them by His word; that its only proper officers are bishops or pastors, and deacons, whose qualifications, claims and dues are defined in the Epistles to Timothy and Titus.

XII. *Of Baptism and the Lord's Supper*—That Christian baptism is the immersion of a believer, in water, in the name of the Father, Son and Spirit, to show forth in a solemn and beautiful emblem, our faith in a crucified and risen Savior, with its purifying power; and that it is a prerequisite to the relatives of a church relation and to the Lord's Supper, in which the members of the church by the use of bread and wine, are to commemorate together the dying love of Christ, preceded always by self-examination.

XIII. *Of the Christian Sabbath*—That the first day of the week is the Lord's Day or Christian Sabbath, and is to be kept sacred to religious purposes, by abstaining from all secular labor and recreations, by the devout observance of all means of grace, both private and public, and by preparation for that rest which remaineth for the people of God.

XIV. *Of Civil Government*—That civil government is of divine appointment, for the interest and good order of human society, and that magistrates are to be prayed for, conscientiously honored and obeyed, except in the things opposed to the will of our Lord Jesus Christ, who is the only Lord of the conscience and Prince of the kings of the earth.

XV. *Of the Righteous and the Wicked*—That there is a radical and essential difference between the righteous and the wicked; that such only as through faith are justified in the name of the Lord Jesus, and sanctified by the Spirit of God, are truly righteous in His esteem; while all such as continue in impotence and unbelief are in His sight wicked, and under the curse; and this distinction holds among men both in and after death.

XVI. *Of the World to Come*—That the end of this world is approaching; that at the last day Christ will descend from heaven and raise the dead from the grave for final retribution; that a solemn separation will then take place; that the wicked will be adjudged to endless punishment, and the righteous to endless joy; and that this judgment will fix forever the final state of man in heaven or hell, on principles of righteousness.

TABULAR STATEMENT OF THE CHURCHES FOR THE YEAR 1893.

CHURCHES.	PASTORS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	CLERKS AND THEIR POST-OFFICES.	Baptized.	Rec'd by Letter.	Restored.	Dis'm'd by Letter.	Excluded.	Died.	Total Membership.	Time of Meeting.
Bethel.....	J. H. Stephens, Vidette, Ala.....	W. L. Davis, Luverne, Ala.....	5	1	1	2	..	1	43	2d Sabbath.
Friendship	C. L. Eiland, Bullock, Ala.....	W. G. Gilchrist, Bullock, Ala.....	6	3	..	3	..	1	65	3d Sabbath.
Luverne	J. S. Varborough, Luverne, Ala.....	H. C. Sanders, Jr., Luverne, Ala.....	28	24	1	..	..	..	72	1st & 3d Sab.
Mt. Gilead.....	C. L. Eiland, Bullock, Ala.....	J. J. Blow, Rose Hill, Ala.....	3	1	..	..	..	..	19	.....
Mt. Zion.....	R. F. Hawkins, Luverne, Ala.....	A. T. Layton, Brantley, Ala.....	4	5	..	1	..	..	48	1st Sabbath.
New Harmony.....	W. C. Avant, Rutledge, Ala.....	M. P. Williams, Vidette, Ala.....	..	..	11	1	1	..	26	.....
Pleasant Home.....	Benj. Cooper, Johnson, Ala.....	T. J. Cowart, Johnson, Ala.....	5	2	..	..	6	1	59	.....
Spring Hill.....	J. H. Stephens, Vidette, Ala.....	Isaac L. Mills, Sr., Vidette, Ala.....	19	8	..	..	..	2	75	3d Sabbath.
Total.....	.....	.....	79	44	1	17	7	5	407	

Luverne—Sabbath School, 60 scholars, and weekly prayer meetings.

Mt. Gilead—Sabbath School part of the year,

Mt. Zion—Sabbath School bi-monthly.

Pleasant Home—Sabbath School once a month; teacher, J. M. Whatley.

Friendship Church—Ordained Ministers, 1, C. L. Eiland.

Luverne Church—Ministers Ordained, 3, J. S. Varborough, R. F. Hawkins and J. F. Simms.

Pleasant Home Church—Ordained Ministers, 1, B. Cooper.

Spring Hill Church—Ordained Ministers, 1, J. H. Stephens,

Funds received from the various Churches—Bethel, \$7.50; Friendship, \$7.10; Luverne, \$5.75; Mt. Gilead, \$4.50; Mt. Zion, \$2.00
New Harmony, \$4.00; Pleasant Home, \$1.25; Spring Hill, \$6.00; Total, \$38.10.

